

Political Science 217: Law, Politics, and Society

Instructor: Ilia Murtazashvili (imurtazashvi@wisc.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Brandon Lamson (lamson@wisc.edu)

Teaching Assistant Office Hours: Thursday 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, North Hall 121

Section Times:

302: Monday 7:00 pm to 7:50 pm, 216 Ingraham

303: Wednesday 4:30 pm to 5:20 pm, 216 Ingraham

304: Tuesday 4:30 pm to 5:20 pm, 215 Ingraham

305: Tuesday 6:00 pm to 6:50 pm, 234 Education

Section Syllabus

We will discuss the *prior* week's content in sections. First and foremost, be sure to keep up with the readings and be prepared to discuss them. The weekend before sections, I will send out a list of questions that we will discuss in section. At times, we will also review or clarify concepts from the lecture. I will also sometimes send out short items that we may discuss briefly. You will not be responsible for the recommended readings, but I encourage you to look at them, and would welcome mention of them in discussion.

Attendance to sections is required and I will be keeping track. Please try to come to the section you signed up for. If you really need to switch, let me know so that I can update the classlists. Attendance counts for 5 percent of the 10 percent section attendance and participation grade. Everyone gets one free absence for any reason, be it good, bad, ugly, or weird. After that, I will deduct 1 percent for each section missed (up to the full 10 percent). If you have to miss section because of sickness, family issues, approved sports or other extracurricular activities, etc., I ask that you first try to make one of the other sections (each will be the same). If this is not possible, the absence will be excused. In any case, *please* let me know beforehand or as soon as possible afterwards if it is an unexpected event, otherwise, I will count it as an unexcused absence.

You should come prepared to actively participate in the discussions, and participation will count for the remaining 5 percent of the attendance and participation grade. Be sure to have all the prior week's readings done (actually, you should have them done before the lectures on the prior week). Look at the questions I send out and try to prepare answers for them. Also, try to think of some of your own questions, comments, and criticisms about the readings. Be sure to bring the readings to class as you or I may want to refer to specific passages. While speaking up in groups is a necessary thing to get used to, I don't expect everyone to participate with equal fervor. We are not born with equal amounts of gabbiness, so I am looking for effort and value contributed to the class, not just the volume of participation. Moreover, coming in for office hours can augment class participation.

Office hours are on Thursday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. They are for whatever you have questions or comments on (class-related or not), but I will give precedence to people with class issues. If you are unable to make the regular office hours, send me an e-mail and we can set up

a different time. My schedule during the day is very flexible this term. Of course, you can also send me any question by e-mail. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. I also have a mailbox in the hall outside the TA offices.

I will be grading all the exams and will return them no more than two weeks after the exam. If you have issues with the grading, please come to me rather than Professor Murtazashvili. I ask that you first wait two days before making an appeal. Write out why you think the answer was misgraded, including your original answer, and e-mail it to me. Then bring the test to office hours or make an appointment with me and we will review the issue. Cheating, of course, will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will get, at the very least, an F (0) for the exam.